

# Poetry Terms 11

1. **Lyric** - Lyrics can be the words to a song, sure, but the word lyric can also refer to a kind of poetry. Lyric poetry is all about giving us a glimpse inside the speaker's head.
2. **Ballad** - The word Ballad is of French provenance. It is a type of poetry or verse which was basically used in dance songs in the ancient France.
3. **Monologue** - in literature and drama, an extended speech by one person. The term has several closely related meanings.
4. **Free verse** - Free verse is a literary device that can be defined as poetry that is free from limitations of regular meter or rhythm and does not rhyme with fixed forms.
5. **Ode** - A kind of poem devoted to the praise of a person, animal, or thing.
6. **Elegy** - an elegy is a mournful, melancholic or plaintive poem, especially a funeral song or a lament for the dead.
7. **Sonnet - English** - a single, complete thought, idea, or sentiment, of 14 lines, usually in iambic pentameter, with rhymes arranged into 3 quatrains followed by a couplet.
8. **Sonnet - Italian** - divided into a major group of 8 lines (octave), followed by a minor group of 6 lines (sestet).
9. **Blank Verse** - unrhymed verse
10. **Epic** - a long poetic composition usually centered around a hero and a series of great events.
11. **Soliloquy** - device to show the character's innermost thoughts in a solo speech.
12. **Onomatopoeia** - Words that sound like the description. eg. Boom!  
"I'm getting married in the morning!  
**Ding dong!** the bells are gonna chime."  
Lerner, Alan Jay. "Get Me To The Church On Time." *Get Me To The Church On Time*. N.p., n.d. Web. 03 Feb. 2015  
<http://www.metrolyrics.com/get-me-to-the-church-on-time-lyrics-my-fair-lady.html>
13. **Oxymoron** - seemingly contradictory terms in one phrase.  
"the shackles of love straiten'd him  
His honour rooted in dishonoured stood  
And faith unfaithful kept him falsely true"

Tennyson, Alfred Lord. "Lancelot and Elaine | Robbins Library Digital Projects." *Lancelot and Elaine*. N.p., n.d. Web. 03 Feb. 2015.

<http://d.lib.rochester.edu/camelot/text/tennyson-lancelot-and-elaine>

**14. Metonymy** - A figure of speech in which one word is substituted for another with which it is closely associated (such as "crown" for "royalty")

“As he swung toward them holding up the hand  
Half in appeal, but half as if to keep  
The life from spilling”

Frost, Robert. "Out, Out." *Shmoop.com*. Shmoop University, Inc., 11 Nov. 2008. Web. 03 Feb. 2015.

<http://www.shmoop.com/out-out-robert-frost/>

**15. Synecdoche** - figure of speech in which a part is used for a whole. (wheels/car)

“Prepar’d to scrub the entry and the stairs.  
The youth with broomy stumps began to trace.”

Swift, Jonathan. "A Description of the Morning." *Poetry Foundation*. Poetry Foundation, n.d. Web. 03 Feb. 2015.

<http://www.poetryfoundation.org/poem/174533>

**16. Hyperbole** - overstatement, obvious and intentional exaggeration.

“I’ll love you, dear, I’ll love you  
Till China and Africa meet,  
And the river jumps over the mountain  
And the salmon sing in the street,  
I’ll love you till the ocean  
Is folded and hung up to dry”

Auden, W.H. "As I Walked One Evening." *Poets.org*. Academy of American Poets, n.d. Web. 03 Feb. 2015.

<http://www.poets.org/poetsorg/poem/i-walked-out-one-evening>

**17. Litotes** - A form of understatement that involves making an affirmative point by denying its opposite

**18. Apostrophe** - figure of speech in which someone absent or dead, or something nonhuman is addressed, as if it were alive

“Twinkle, twinkle, little star,  
How I wonder what you are.  
Up above the world so high,  
Like a diamond in the sky.”

Taylor, Jane. "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star." *Poetry Foundation*. Poetry Foundation, n.d. Web. 03 Feb. 2015.

<http://www.poetryfoundation.org/poem/171955>

**19. Metaphor** - figure of speech comparing two different things without using like or as

“She is all states, and all princes, I.”

Donne, John. "The Sun Rising." *Donne. The Sun Rising*. N.p., n.d. Web. 03 Feb. 2015.

<http://www.luminarium.org/sevenlit/donne/sunrising.htm>

**20. Personification** - A figure of speech in which an object or animal is given human feelings, thoughts, or attitudes.

“Two Sunflowers  
Move in the Yellow Room.  
‘Ah, William, we’re weary of weather,  
said the sunflowers, shining with dew.  
Our traveling habits have tired us.  
Can you give us a room with a view?”

Blake, William. "Two Sunflowers Move in the Yellow Room." *Poems Song Lyrics We like*. N.p., 16 Oct. 2012. Web. 03 Feb. 2015.

<https://silkyoaksriverschool.wordpress.com/2012/10/16/two-sunflowers-move-in-the-yellow-room-william-blake/>

**21. Simile** - Comparing two unlike things using like or as.

“O my Luve’s like a red, red rose  
That’s newly sprung in June;  
O my Luve’s like the melodie  
That’s sweetly played in tune.”

Burns, Robert. "In The Heydays of His Eyes." *In The Heydays of His Eyes*. N.p., n.d. Web. 03 Feb. 2015.

<http://www.heydays.ws/?where=authors&author=Robert%20Burns>

**22. Alliteration** - Repetition of an initial consonant sound.

“The fair breeze blew, the white foam flew,  
The furrow followed free;  
We were the first that ever burst  
Into that silent sea.”

Taylor, Samuel. "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner." *Poetry Foundation*. Poetry Foundation, n.d. Web. 01 Feb. 2015.

<http://www.poetryfoundation.org/poem/173253>

**23. Assonance** - repetition of identical or similar vowel sounds in neighbouring words.

“Do not go gentle into that good night,  
Old age should burn and rave at close of day;  
Rage, rage, against the dying of the light.  
Grave men, near death, who see with blinding sight,  
Blind eyes could blaze like meteors and be gay,

Rage, rage against the dying of the light.”

Thomas, Dylan. "Do Not Go Gentle Into the Good Night." *Poets.org*. Academy of American Poets, n.d. Web. 02 Feb. 2015.

<http://www.poets.org/poetsorg/poem/do-not-go-gentle-good-night>

**24. Consonance** - The repetition of consonant sounds, most specifically at the end of words or accented syllables.

“A Quietness distilled  
As Twilight long *begun*,  
Or Nature spending with herself  
Sequestered *Afternoon*—”

Dickinson, Emily. "As Imperceptible as Grief." *As Imperceptible as Grief by Emily Dickinson*. N.p., n.d. Web. 03 Feb. 2015.

<http://allpoetry.com/As-imperceptibly-as-grief>

**25. Allusion** - brief, usually indirect reference to a person, place, or event.

“Sylvan historian, who canst thus express  
A flowery tale more sweetly than our rhyme:  
What leaf-fringed legend haunts about thy shape  
Of deities or mortals, or of both,  
In Tempe or the dales of Arcady?”

Keats, John. "Ode on a Grecian Urn." *Poetry Foundation*. Poetry Foundation, n.d. Web. 01 Feb. 2015.

<http://www.poetryfoundation.org/poem/173742>

**26. Imagery** - descriptive language that appeals to one or more senses. Makes a picture in the reader's mind.

1. “Or sinking as the light wind lives or dies;
2. And full-grown lambs loud bleat from hilly bourn;
3. Hedge-crickets sing; and now with treble soft
4. The redbreast whistles from a garden-croft,
5. And gathering swallows twitter in the skies.”

Keats, John. "Ode To Autumn." - *Famous Poems, Famous Poets*. N.p., n.d. Web. 03 Feb. 2015.

<http://allpoetry.com/Ode-To-Autumn>

**27. Cadence** - rhythmic flow of a sequence of sounds or words

**28. End Rhyme** - A word at the end of one line rhymes with a word at the end of another line

**29. Stanza** - an arrangement of lines - usually four, dividing the poem

**30. Caesura** - grammatical pause or break in a line of poetry usually in the middle

"Know then thyself //, presume not God to scan;  
The proper study of Mankind // is Man.  
Plac'd on this isthmus of a middle state,  
A being darkly wise, and rudely great:"

Pope, Alexander. "An Essay on Man." *Poetry Foundation*. Poetry Foundation, n.d. Web. 03 Feb. 2015.

<http://www.poetryfoundation.org/poem/174165>

31. **Couplet** - pair of lines of verse in a row, especially a pair that rhyme and are of equal length
32. **Quatrain** - a four line stanza
33. **Octave** - stanza of eight lines, especially the first eight lines of a sonnet in the Italian form
34. **Sestet** - last six lines of a sonnet in the Italian form.
35. **Rhyme Scheme** - pattern of rhymes used in a poem, usually marked by letters aa,bb,abab
36. **Paradox** - statement or proposition that seems self-contradictory, but actually contains wisdom.
37. **Dialect** - special variety of a language - usually tied to geography
38. **Epithet** - word or phrase, applied to a person or thing, to describe an actual or attributed quality
39. **Allegory** - a story with two meanings, a literal meaning and an abstract, or spiritual meaning.
40. **Foreshadowing** - hints of what may come next
41. **Pastoral** - suggesting idyllically the life of shepherds or the country; rural, rustic.
42. **Pun** - humorous use of a word or phrase so as to suggest or emphasize its other meaning.
43. **Cacophony** -harsh, horrid sounds
44. **Euphony** - pleasant sounds in combination; pleasing effect to the ear
45. **Internal Rhyme** - rhyme within a line involving two or more words.
46. **Narrative** - a story, factual or fiction.